

Wayne Allard

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U.S. SENATE APPROVES ALLARD'S FORT LYON TRANSFER BILL BILL WOULD EXPAND HEALTH CARE OPTIONS FOR VETERANS AND TRANSFERS FACILITY TO STATE OF COLORADO

Washington, D.C. – The Senate approved by unanimous vote late Thursday evening U.S. Senator Wayne Allard's (R-CO) legislation to expedite the transfer of Fort Lyon VA Medical Center in Las Animas to the state of Colorado. The bill also expands healthcare options for Veterans in southeastern Colorado.

"I am pleased that we have been able to get this bill through the U.S. Senate," Allard said Thursday night following the Senate's vote. "Since the Veterans Administration announced their decision to close Fort Lyon last year, we have been trying to do everything possible to ensure that no veteran's medical care needs go unmet due to its closure."

Allard's legislation will require the VA to implement their plan to open at least three healthcare clinics throughout southern Colorado and a nursing home in Pueblo. In addition, it will provide full funding of nursing home healthcare for all current Veterans at Fort Lyon, guarantee continued public access to the historical chapel and cemetery, and expedite the transfer of Fort Lyon to the state of Colorado.

"Senate passage of my bill brings us one step closer to expanding healthcare options for veterans and reducing the economic impact that closure will have on the Las Animas community," added Allard. "I am hopeful we will be able to get this bill through the Conference Committee and signed by President Clinton before we adjourn in October."

Allard's bill is now part of S.1810, The Veterans Claims and Appeals Procedures Clarification and Improvement Act, which will now go to a joint House-Senate Conference Committee. The Conference Committee is expected to have a report completed by late next week for final passage by both the House and Senate. If approved, the bill then would need to be signed by President Clinton.

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